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Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Gualberto **Rodríguez San Martín** (Bolivia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 September 1999, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 18, 92, 93, 94 and 12, and 95. The general debate on the items was held at the 3rd to 6th meetings, from 4 to 7 October (see A/C.4/54/SR.3-6). The Committee took action on item 92 at its 7th meeting, on 8 October (see A/C.4/54/SR.7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/54/23 (Part II), chap. VIII and A/54/23 (Part III), chap. XIII);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/343).

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23).

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II. Consideration of a draft resolution contained in document A/54/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section A

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 October, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 1999 and drew attention to chapters VIII and XIII of the report of that Committee (see A/54/23 (Part II and Part III)), the latter containing, *inter alia*, the related draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee.

5. At its 7th meeting, on 8 October, the Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution I contained in chapter XIII, section A, of the report of the Special Committee (see A/54/23 (Part III)) by a recorded vote of 84 to none, with 5 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

6. The representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.4/54/SR.7).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see A/C.4/54/SR.7).

[2] Subsequently, the delegations of Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[3] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 53/60 of 3 December 1998, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

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[3] A/54/23 (Part II), chap. VIII; for the final text see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23).

[4] A/54/343.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.